(iv) Effective vigilance all along the Indo-Pak border is maintained through patrolling by BSF with additional support from state police.

(v) Militant cadres in J&K have suffered heavy casualties and many outfits have lost their top ranking leaders. In Punjab a break-through has been achieved in many recent cases and several suspects of left over Punjab militants group who have cross-border linkages have been arrested.

(vi) Vigilance along Indo-Nepal border is also being strengthened.

ULFA Rebel Camps in Bhutan

2406. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ULFA rebels have set up camps in the forests inside the territory of Bhutan for launching violent attacks in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan; and

(c) Bhutanese Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter has been taken up with the Government of Bhutan and the Bhutanese authorities are extending cooperation.

Freedom Fighters Pension

2407. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the State affairs of pension to freedom fighters in Assam;

(b) if so, how many cases are pending

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure the payment of pension to all eligible freedom fighters in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes.

(b) All applications received within prescribed time limit i.e. 31.3.1982 from Assam have been considered and decisions communicated to the applicants However, many review petitions and some delayed cases continue to be received. This is an on going process.

(c) Does not arise.

Diversion of Border and Security Ftnds in Assam

2408. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funds meant for border road and security are being diverted in Assam to check infiltration from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of such funds; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check such diversion of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Government of Asiam diverted an amount of Rs. 504.82 lakhs to other State Works out of funds released for the construction of Border Roads and Fence upto 31.3.1996.

(c) After considering options like entrusting the execution of works to an agency other than the State Public Works Department in the Technical Committee and the High Level Empowered Committee for the Indo-Bangladesh Border Roads and Fencing Project, the matter was taken up with the State